

In addition to the praise of local school officials benefiting from the recent graduates, the accelerated teacher certification program has been selected as a national model of "best practices" for colleges throughout the country by the National Council for Continuing Education and Training.

For their commitment to quality programs and responsiveness to the needs of the community, Indian River Community College and its President, Ed Massey, deserve the congratulations of Congress.

TRIBUTE TO THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF BAUSCH AND LOMB

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 30, 2003

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the 150th anniversary of Bausch & Lomb—a community institution, an outstanding corporation, and a global innovator.

In 1853, a German immigrant named John Jacob Bausch started a modest business selling optical goods. He got off to an uneven start, and borrowed \$60 in capital from a close friend, Henry Lomb. Bausch promised to make Lomb a full partner if the business prospered. Indeed, the business grew beyond its founders' wildest dreams. Today, Bausch & Lomb is the premiere name, recognized around the world, for excellence in eye health products.

Headquartered in my district of Rochester, New York, Bausch & Lomb employs over 11,000 people and generates annual revenues of almost \$2 billion. B&L, as it is affectionately known, is also deeply committed to our community and its future. More than 5,000 schools nationwide participate in the Bausch & Lomb Science Award, which is bestowed on selected high school sophomores for excellence in science. Along with a medal, winners are eligible for a Bausch & Lomb scholarship for study at the University of Rochester, and associated paid summer internships in B&L labs. The B&L science awards and scholarships promote science scholarship and foster the next generation of scientists and researchers.

At its facilities in Rochester, B&L has created some of the most innovative optical equipment and goods in the world. During World War I, B&L produced the special sunglasses for military men. B&L researchers invented the first optical-quality glass. And in 1971, Bausch & Lomb introduced the first soft contact lenses, a product that has improved the quality of life for millions of people around the globe. Today, tens of millions depend upon high quality B&L products to improve and maintain one of their most precious assets: their vision.

Mr. Speaker, I am deeply proud of the fine work done by my constituents at Bausch & Lomb every day. One's sight is a precious thing, and it speaks volumes that more people entrust their vision to Bausch & Lomb than to any other company in the world. I salute Bausch & Lomb—company CEO Ronald Zarrella, his leadership team, and every one of his outstanding employees—on their 150th anniversary. We all look forward with great anticipation to seeing what the coming years bring to and from Bausch & Lomb.

EULOGY FOR CORINNE MICHEL

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 30, 2003

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, it's with great regret that I come to the floor today to note the untimely passing on October 22 of Corinne Michel, a friend of so many of us privileged to serve in this House, and the wife of former House Minority Leader Bob Michel of Illinois.

As Mike Johnson, a former Chief of Staff for Bob Michel, told Copley News Service: "[Corinne] was never affected by all the limelight. Bob used to say people in politics have their feet planted in midair. Hers were always planted firmly on the ground."

And as Millie Arends, the city treasurer in the Michel's home city of Peoria, Illinois, noted: "She was well-read on everything. Her husband said she was one his best assets."

Corinne Michel was born in Onida, South Dakota, and was raised in St. Paul, Minnesota, Pittsburgh and Peoria, Illinois, where her father managed the Livestock Market News. In 1943, she graduated from Peoria High School, and then met Bob when the two sang in the a cappella choir at Bradley University.

Corinne was an accomplished classical pianist who graduated with two music degrees and then taught music in the Peoria public schools. In 1948, the Michels were married and eight years later Bob was elected to the House, where he served with distinction for 38 years—including 14 as the Republican leader—before retiring in 1995.

While Bob served his constituents and nation in Washington, Corinne raised the couple's four children back in Peoria. She was active in Peoria Players and Central Illinois Youth Symphony and helped bring opera and ballet to Peoria. She also represented Bob at events in his home District.

In Washington, she was active in Congressional spouse organizations and chaired the Republican Women's Federal Forum.

The Michels' son Scott told the Chicago Tribune: "Music played a huge role in her [his mother's] life and she passed it on [to her children]. I would come home from school and there would be classical music on the stereo and she would be playing the piano."

And said our colleague RAY LAHOOD, a former Chief of Staff for Leader Michel and the successor in his seat, said: "She was one of the loveliest persons I have ever met." A sentiment that all who knew her shared.

He continued: "She never sought the limelight . . . but her husband sought her advice and she gave it to him in her own quiet way."

Mr. Speaker, I want to extend my sincerest condolences to my friend, the former Republican Leader, who not only is a great credit to this institution but also an American of unquestioned patriotism and courage.

Bob Michel, who was wounded as an infantryman in World War II and received two Bronze Stars, the Purple Heart and four battle stars, laid his life on the line so that succeeding generations could experience the freedoms that we enjoy—and too often take for granted—today.

Let's recognize today that while Bob Michel soared to great heights throughout his career, he always had a steady, able partner on that

journey—his beloved wife, Corinne, whose loss we mourn today.

I also want to express my condolences to the Michels' sons, Scott, Bruce and Robin; daughter, Laurie; and three grandsons. Our thoughts and prayers are with them.

VETERANS HEALTH CARE FACILITIES CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 29, 2003

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1720, the Veterans Health Care Facilities Capital Improvement Act. I would like to recognize the very necessary and hard work of my colleagues on the House Veterans Affairs Committee, from both sides of the aisle, and our Chairman Congressman ROB SIMMONS of Connecticut, on this critical issue.

H.R. 1720, as amended, authorizes a new approach to funding VA construction after the Department addresses a number of compelling needs identified throughout the system. Through this measure we have outlined Congressional priorities for the types of projects VA should fund, but would allow VA to identify the locations where there is the most need.

I am particularly interested in VA's plan to address the needs of veterans in far south Texas. Parts of my district have the worst access to hospital care in the country. I am especially pleased that the amended version of H.R. 1720 contains a section that authorizes the development of a strategy by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to address the great need for hospital care for veterans who reside in far south Texas. Under H.R. 1720, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs would be required to submit findings to the Senate and House of Representatives no later than January 31, 2004.

Mr. Speaker, it is shameful that veterans in McAllen, Texas, just east of my district, must travel up to 6 hours one-way to reach the San Antonio VA Medical Center. Data collected for VA's Capital Assets Realignment for Enhanced Services (CARES) process showed that veterans in one of the area's markets—the Valley Coastal Bend—have the worst access to acute inpatient hospital care of veterans in any other VA market in the United States.

The time has passed for us to address this crisis in access. This bill will put VA on a sure path for doing that, and I will eagerly await the opportunity to respond to VA's recommendations for increasing access for South Texas veterans. This bill is an important step to ensure that VA keeps its promise to veterans.

80TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TURKISH REPUBLIC

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 30, 2003

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, this week the Turkish Republic, an original participating State of the Organization for Security